

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-14 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-03 COME-00

FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 SAM-01

SCI-06 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01 /230 W

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R 201553Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3797

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA AND IEP

REF: (A) BERN 3474 AND (B) STOCKHOLM 4091

1. SUMMARY: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL HAS REVEALED THAT GOA NOW SERIOUSLY STUDYING
POSSIBILITY OF JOINING IEP. (END SUMMARY)

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
(AMBASSADOR GEORG SEYFFERTITZ), HE MENTIONED THAT GOA
WAS FOLLOWING WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM. SEYFFERTITZ IS
OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR OECD, GATT, ECE, AND INTER-
NATIONAL RESOURCES MATTERS IN FOREIGN OFFICE. HE SAID
THAT THEY WERE AWARE OF THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE
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IEP AND THAT DAVIGNON HAD DISCUSSED PROGRAM WITH

AUSTRIANS (PRESUMABLY IN BRUSSELS).

3. ECONCOUNS ASKED IF SEYFFERTITZ HAD ANY PARTICULAR THOUGHTS OR QUESTIONS THIS SUBJECT. SEYFFERTITZ REPLIED THAT AT THE MOMENT GOA ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN NEW EEC INITIATIVE TO FORMULATE A COMMON ENERGY POLICY AND HOW SUCH A POLICY MIGHT RELATE TO THE IEP. IN PARTICULAR HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS NEW EEC DEVELOPMENT WOULD MEAN THAT THE FRENCH WOULD AGREE TO JOIN IEP. AS FOR AUSTRIA, HE FELT THAT THE GOA WOULD KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE SUBJECT OF JOINING IEP AND THAT BASICALLY THEY WERE QUITE INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY IF IEP IS PLACED UNDER OECD AND IF THE FRENCH JOIN. THE GOA WOULD, HOWEVER, WANT TO STUDY THE MATTER CLOSELY AND WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE CURRENT MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS.

4. SEYFFERTITZ SAID HE WAS AWARE OF SWEDISH AND SWISS INTEREST IN THE IEP. ASKED ABOUT A GOA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION ANNOUNCED BY THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 17 TO SEND A DELEGATION TO A ONE-DAY MEETING OF NEUTRAL STATES (SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA) IN ZURICH TO DISCUSS THE IEP AND "A LONGER TERM PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS," SEYFFERTITZ SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT THIS DECISION HAD BEEN PUBLISHED.

5. SEYFFERTITZ SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED ON FURTHER IEP DEVELOPMENTS.

6. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE SUSPECTED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, GOA IS GRADUALLY WARMING UP TO THE IDEA THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE IEP MIGHT BE A GOOD THING FOR AUSTRIA. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, NOT YET SORTED OUT THEIR OWN POSITION ALTHOUGH IT IS EVIDENT THAT THIS WILL GAIN MOMENTUM IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CITED ZURICH MEETING. AUSTRIANS ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO FRENCH PARTICIPATION. ALSO, IT IEP BECOMES PART OF OECD, CHANCES FOR GOA DECISION TO JOIN WILL BE ENHANCED. IF IT DOES NOT, GOA WILL BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN MAKING UP ITS MIND. FACT THAT

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SWITZERLAND HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE TO BECOME MEMBER UNDOUBTEDLY WILL HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE ON GOA THINKING.

7. DEPT. REPEAT AS DESIRED. HUMES

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